

NEWSLETTER

American Theological Library Association
Vol. 2, No. 2
February 25, 1955
Duke University, Durham, N. C.
Donn Michael Farris, Editor

ALA RELIGIOUS BOOKS ROUND TABLE MEETS

The Religious Books Round Table of the American Library Association met at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago on February 3. Father Frederick C. Joaquin, Librarian, Nashotah House, Nashotah, Wisconsin, introduced the subject, "Criteria for the Selection of Religious Books," and the Round Table discussed this topic at some length.

Mr. Arthur Swann, Librarian, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, and Chairman of the Special Committee appointed by the ALA to study the Religious Books Round Table reported on the progress of the study but said that there would be no report from his committee to the ALA Council at its midwinter meeting. He recommended, however, that the Round Table continue in 1955 its practice of preparing a listing of the Outstanding Religious Books of the Year. The group voted to carry out Mr. Swann's recommendation.

The Round Table elected the following officers to serve until September, 1955: Chairman, the Reverend D. Bernard Theall, OSB, Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.; and Secretary-Treasurer, Otto W. Walter II, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois.

BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Father Theall has announced that the members of the committee appointed to make the selection of the Outstanding Religious Books of 1955 are as follows:

H. Eugene Craig - Librarian, Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta
Donn Michael Farris - Librarian, Duke University Divinity School,
Durham, North Carolina

The Reverend John A. Harrer - Librarian, Congregational Library,
Boston

Mrs. Pierre Quiers - Librarian, Northwestern Lutheran Theological
Seminary, Minneapolis

Phillips Temple - Librarian, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

The Jewish member of the committee is yet to be chosen.

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CONFIDENTIAL - INTERNAL SECURITY - 1000

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM, ATLA, NEW YORK, JUNE 15-17, 1955
(Host: Union Theological Seminary, Robert Beach, Librarian)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 (Executive Committee meets at 10:00 a.m.)

1:00 p.m. - REGISTRATION

2:00 p.m. - OPENING SESSION (President Robert Beach, Presiding)
Worship - Brooks Little
Greetings and Instructions
Statement of Conference Aims
Committee Reports: (1) Microphotography - Turner; (2)
Building and Equipment - Schmidt; (3) Personnel and
Placement - Schmitt
Opening Business Meeting
Tea

7:30 p.m. - EVENING SESSION (Betty Jane Highfield, Presiding)
Paper: Bibliographical Paper on John Calvin - Roger
Nicole, Librarian, Gordon Divinity School
Committee Reports: (1) Periodical Exchange - Pierson;
(2) Periodical Indexing - Newhall; (3) Helmbold
Report - Morris

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

9:00 a.m. - MORNING SESSION (Henry Brimm, Presiding)
Worship - Brooks Little
Committee Report: Cataloging and Classification - Eisenhart
Panels: Cataloging - "Relation of the Catalogue to Refer-
ence Work" (Panel members to be announced)
Classification - "Union Classification" - Miss
Julia Pettee and others

12:00 noon - INFORMAL LUNCHEON HONORING MISS PETTEE (tentative)

2:00 p.m. - AFTERNOON SESSION (Robert Beach, Presiding)
Paper: (Topic to be announced) - Eugene Exman, Religious
Book Editor, Harper and Brothers
Round Tables: Cataloging and Classification (Dewey;
L.C.; and Union)
Business Meeting

7:30 p.m. - EVENING SESSION
Committee Report: Cooperation - Chenery
Workshop on Cooperative Procedures: Frederick L. Chenery,
Librarian, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the
Southwest; and others

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

9:00 a.m. - MORNING SESSION (Robert Beach, Presiding)
Worship - Brooks Little
Bibliographical Paper on Missions: (Topic to be announced) -
Pierce Beaver, Librarian, Missionary Research Library
Closing Business Session

Executive Committee meets at lunch
Post-Conference Tours

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 10/10/50

TO: THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

FROM: [illegible]

SUBJECT: [illegible]

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MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Members are invited to indicate what types of tours they would enjoy on Friday afternoon (the United Nations, New York Public Library, Columbia University Libraries, General Theological Seminary, or places less closely related to professional interests). Suggestions for tours should be sent to the program chairman, Mrs. Evah Kincheloe, Chicago Theological Seminary Library, 5757 University Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois, so that arrangements may be made for including them in the Friday afternoon schedule.

Our host, Mr. Robert F. Beach, sends the following announcement to ATLA members: "I should like very much to have members aware that we in New York realize that this will be a long trip for many people. The experience might seem even more worthwhile if they were assured of an opportunity for inexpensive housing through the weekend following the Conference. I believe that this can be taken care of in our dormitory situation. Your note might point out that full information on details of housing, travel, and other local arrangements will be sent out with the official invitation later in the spring.

Miss Margaret J. Hort, Librarian of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, suggests that, despite the time gap between the end of the ATLA conference in New York and the beginning of the ALA convention in Philadelphia, some of our members may wish to combine a vacation trip in the East with the two professional events. Some interesting historical and library sightseeing has already been planned in connection with the ALA convention. In addition, the formal ALA program, and the book and equipment exhibits will be of interest and help to theological librarians; and the six theological seminaries in the Philadelphia area will welcome visits from colleagues.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Western Theological Library Association held its spring meeting at St. Margaret's House, Berkeley, California, on Tuesday, February 15. The program included a discussion of "Book-mending and Preservation Techniques" by Alan Van Seeker, Head of the Book-Binding Department of the University of California; a report by Dr. Francis L. Bouquet on his visit to seminary libraries around the country during his sabbatical leave; and a report by J. Stillson Judah on the cooperative acquisition policy program, plans for which Mr. Judah had outlined in a paper read before the October meeting of the organization.

At the business session which closed the meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Francis L. Bouquet, San Francisco Theological Seminary; Vice-President, Arnold D. Ehlert, Fuller Theological Seminary; and Secretary-Treasurer, Abraham Tom, San Francisco Theological Seminary. Approval was also given to the inventory project, already under study in several libraries as a first step toward a cooperative index and the grading of theological library holdings in the California area.

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COOPERATIVE ACQUISITIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST

At the conference on Theological Education in the Southwest, held at Southern Methodist University last November 26-27, the librarians of theological institutions in the area decided to take action toward making available in the Southwest the scholarly materials needed for faculty and advanced student research. Accordingly, on December 20, 1954, librarians and other representatives of eight schools met at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, to discuss the problem. Represented were Austin Presbyterian Seminary, Austin; Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin; Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas; Perkins School of Theology, Dallas; Phillips University, Enid, Okla; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; Texas Christian University, Fort Worth; and Tidwell Bible Library of Baylor University, Waco.

It was recognized by the group that certain materials are needed by all seminaries. On the other hand, one copy of other seldom-used scholarly publications, if available in the area, would be sufficient for all seminaries in the Southwest for the time being. This first conference was limited to discussion of periodicals. Titles from all available bibliographies of religious periodicals were evaluated; and tentative responsibility was allocated, on a voluntary basis, for acquisition of volumes to complete sets already owned or for acquisition of titles not present in the area. As a first step, each librarian will send to all others in the group a record of the periodical holdings of his library. A list of titles not present in the area, together with an indication of the institution tentatively assuming responsibility for acquiring the title, will also be made available to all the librarians.

At this first meeting Dr. L. R. Elliott, Librarian of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was chosen as Chairman and C. G. Sparks, Texas Christian University Librarian, as Secretary of the group. Plans were made for a second meeting to be held on October 22, 1955, to consider acquisition, on a cooperative basis, of serial publications other than periodicals. At a later meeting, perhaps in 1956, non-serial titles will be discussed.

COMMITTEE ON PERIODICAL INDEXING

Dr. Jannette E. Newhall, chairman of the committee, submits the following report:

Rapid progress is being made on the second volume of the ATLA Index to Religious Periodical Literature. Members who have cards which are to be returned to Mrs. Quiers are asked to do so as soon as possible.

The postal card vote on inclusion of book reviews is 78 - 2 in favor of inclusion, with most users reporting them a great timesaver. Furthermore, it is felt that, without them, the volume would appear to the public to be unusually thin.

The committee is considering the possibility of postponing publication of the second volume long enough to allow the inclusion of at least one more year. The comments of ATLA members on this proposal will be appreciated by the editor, Mrs. Pierre R. Quiers. She may be addressed at the Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary Library, 116 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis 4, Minnesota.

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CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

Mrs. Adele Herrick Calkins has resigned her position as Librarian of the General Theological Library in Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Calkins came to the Library in 1929 as a clerical assistant and was appointed Librarian in 1941 to succeed Miss Helen Atkins.

Miss Marjorie W. Stone is the new Librarian of the General Theological Library. She is a graduate of Wellesley College with professional experience in both natural science and library service. Miss Stone was Assistant in Botany at Brown University, installed the botany exhibits at the Park Museum in Providence, and more recently was Bibliographer at the Harvard Gray Herbarium. She comes to her present position from the Boston University Medical School Library.

Mr. Edgar M. Krentz, Instructor in Greek at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, has been serving as Acting Librarian since the death of Mr. Edward Saleska last November.

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION

Mr. Frederick L. Chenery, chairman of the committee, announces that the group has chosen for its first major project the preparation of a mimeographed directory of theological libraries. The date of issuance will depend upon the scope of the directory and the type of information to be included, neither of which has been finally determined. The committee also plans to make a survey of the acquisition lists of ATLA member libraries in time either to include the results in the May issue of the Newsletter or to report them at the June conference.

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY EXHIBITION

The General Theological Seminary exhibition commemorating the five hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Gutenberg Bible (1455) attracted over 100 visitors in its first month, December 27, 1954, to January 27, 1955. This exhibition presents the Gutenberg Bible and almost all important Bible editions in Latin, Greek and English from 1455 through 1700 A. D. This exhibition will run until February 20, 1955. The librarian is planning a large exhibition of liturgical books for commencement. This will be held over for those members of ATLA who wish to visit it at convention time.

BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT NOTES

The Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, laid the cornerstone for its new library building on February 3, 1955. The building will be three stories high, will have a floor space of about 20,000 sq. ft., and will cost, with equipment, about \$250,000. The first two floors will be devoted to library purposes; later on, when a new classroom and administration building is erected, the third floor will also be used for library purposes. The library will have a number of unusual features. The most noticeable, perhaps, will be a large, open study terrace, 48 ft. by 10 ft., looking out upon the Rocky Mountain range to the west. The stacks will all be free standing, and the entire library will be open stack. Initial equipment will include an elevator. The building will be heated by forced air; the same equipment will be used for forced air ventilation in the summer. If air conditioning should prove to be advisable, this can be installed quite readily into the existing ventilation system. There will be twenty enclosed study carrels, each about 36 sq. ft. in size. In addition, there will be room at the study tables for 120 students at a time. The stacks on the first two floors will hold well over 100,000 volumes. The library is to be completed by August 15.

The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will let a contract on March 1 for the construction of an addition to the Fleming Library, with occupancy hoped for by the first of September. The new section will consist of three floors, each 74 x 128 feet, which is more than double the present floor space. Most of the space will be devoted to student accommodation. There will be about 50 additional carrels for graduate students, 24 faculty studies, and seating space for 500 additional readers. Fluorescent lighting will be employed throughout and year-round air-conditioning will be installed.

NOTABLE ACQUISITION AT MCGILL

The Faculty of Divinity of McGill University has announced the acquisition of "the John Henry Birks Collection of Ancient Palestinian Manuscripts." These scroll fragments from the Judean Desert are all from Qumran IV. It is believed to be the finest collection of these unique manuscript fragments outside the original Government (of Palestine) collection. This material is to remain at the Palestine Museum for about two years for study and will be published along with the rest by the Oxford University Press.

SURVEY OF THE DEWEY 200 SCHEDULE

Mrs. Earle Hilgert, cataloger for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, is working on her Master's thesis at the Library School of the Catholic University of America in Washington. The thesis is to be a survey of the use of the 200 (religion) schedules of the Dewey Decimal Classification in Protestant theological seminary libraries. Special emphasis will be placed on changes and expansions that have been made in the individual libraries to meet their particular needs.

The idea for the thesis came out of a suggestion made at the 1954 ATLA meeting in Chicago, that, since Dewey seems to be quite inadequate in the field of religion, efforts should be made with the Editorial Office of the 16th edition to have certain changes and expansions made. The purpose of the study is to determine areas in which changes appear to be desirable.

The thesis will consist of a tabulation of information to be gathered by a questionnaire sent to seminary libraries using Dewey, and of an analysis of such major expansions and changes as have been made. Working and studying in Washington, Mrs. Hilgert is exceptionally well-placed to become ATLA's contact with the DC Editorial Office. It is hoped that our members will give her every assistance in their power.

POSITION OPEN

There will be a vacancy for a cataloger at the Boston University School of Theology Library on May 1. Interested persons should write to Dr. Jannette E. Newhall, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston 15, Massachusetts.

POSITION WANTED

Mrs. Doris Wilson Purcell, who will have completed one year in residence at Garrett Biblical Institute in June, is very much interested in an opening to do library work in a theological school. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester and has a bachelor's degree in library science from State College for Teachers, Albany, New York. She has done college library work since 1939. While at Garrett, she worked part time in the library under the supervision of Dr. Lucy Markley on a project to reclassify books from Dewey to the Library of Congress system. She is available after June 13, 1955.

IS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE SONNE BIBLIOGRAPHY NEEDED?

It has been suggested to the Executive Committee that the ATLA issue a supplement to A Bibliography of Post-graduate Masters' Theses in Religion, edited by Dr. Niels Sonne and issued in 1951. President Beach will welcome individual reactions as to the need for such a supplement and any other suggestions which might prove useful to the Executive Committee in its consideration of this proposal.

NEW EXTENSION LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

Bethel College and Seminary Library, in St. Paul, Minnesota, has extended its library services by establishing a circulating library for pastors and Christian workers of the Baptist Conference of America. With the cooperation of the seminary faculty the initial announcement circular was prepared and mailed to 491 conference pastors.

MISCELLANEA

The Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Library has on hand a number of copies of Henry E. Dosker's Outline Studies in Church History, Louisville, Kentucky, 1913. Any library wishing a copy or copies may have them for the cost of postage. Requests should be addressed to the Librarian, Mr. Ernest M. White, 109 East Broadway, Louisville 2, Kentucky.

Miss Alice Dagan, ATLA Secretary, reports that she continues to have requests for back issues of the ATLA Proceedings which she cannot fill. If any members of the organization have extra copies of any of the Proceedings, Miss Dagan will appreciate receiving them for the secretary's files. She may be addressed at the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1670 South 11th Avenue, Maywood, Illinois.

Mrs. Earle Hilgert, of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, 6830 Laurel St., N.W., Washington 12, D.C., is very eager to secure copies of the 1947 and 1948 ATLA Proceedings, and will gladly pay for them, if anyone has copies they would like to dispose of, or which are duplicates.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Publication of Dr. Williams's Library Catalogue of Accessions 1900-1953 has been announced for early in 1955. The Catalogue, which runs to over 900 pages, contains entries for all books published during the first half of the twentieth century that have been added to the Library during that period.

Dr. Williams's Library specializes in philosophy, theology and church history and is particularly strong in the fields of mediaeval studies and the history of Puritanism and dissent. The Catalogue lists the major English and many foreign works on these subjects and thus is a valuable source of information for students and librarians as well as a necessary guide for the Library's own readers.

Orders may be directed to the Secretary, Dr. Williams's Library, 14, Gordon Square, London, W. C. 1, England. The price for the cloth-covered edition is 2/6/3 and for the edition in paper boards 1/18/9. Both prices include postage.

Kregel's Book Store has announced that it is contemplating issuance of a reprint of Adolf Harnack's History of Dogma, if sufficient interest in the project is expressed by the public. ATLA members who would be interested in seeing this monumental work made available again may write to Kregel's at 525 Eastern Avenue, S.E., Grand Rapids 6, Michigan.

Concordia Triglotta is again in print in a new edition published by Charles Mott of the Phelps Press in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is an exact reprint of the 1921 Concordia Press edition edited by F. Bente. The price is \$18.50.

METHODIST COLLEGE LOSES ENTIRE LIBRARY BY FIRE

On Saturday afternoon, February 12, College Hall at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota, burned completely. This building housed the University's library of 30,000 volumes. Nothing was saved except the few books which were checked out to students and faculty. Members of ATLA who have duplicates on hand which are suitable for use on the college level and who wish to assist this institution in building a new library collection, may address gifts to Miss Anna Lee Standard, Librarian.

